

FALL 2019

# Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine







**Dr. Chris Maggio**  
1985, 1991  
President  
Northwestern State  
University

Dear Alumni:

A few weeks ago, we welcomed to campus the class of 2023. (I wonder if that makes you feel as old as it makes me feel.) This group arrived at NSU from 344 different high schools in 10 states, from all corners of Louisiana and several countries abroad. They come from diverse backgrounds. Some are the children of NSU alumni and others are the first in their families to attend college. During New Student Convocation, we introduced them to the NSU Creed and our principles of loyalty, leadership and service. For many of these students, the next four years will be the most formative of their lives as they grow in self-awareness and responsibility, form relationships that last a lifetime and take with them memories of their college experience.

Earlier this year, the UL System launched Compete LA, a program that makes it easy for adults who earned some college credit to return to school to complete their degrees. Through this initiative, NSU is offering 11 degree programs online and each student will be paired with a coach to help them navigate the enrollment process. You can read more about Compete LA on page 10. Please consider discussing this program with your family members, coworkers and friends who may have dropped out of college.

I wish I could convey to you the energy and sense of motivation so prevalent at NSU, from student leaders, to faculty, staff and administration. Through our work at NSU, we are committed to bettering our communities, our state and our quality of life.

Thank you for all you do to support our alma mater,  
Northwestern State University.



**Drake Owens**  
2004, 2005  
Assistant Vice  
President of External  
Affairs for University  
Advancement

Dear Alumni:

By the time you read this, it will be mid-semester at NSU. While we've been finalizing Homecoming plans and hope to see many of you in Natchitoches for those festivities, we're also looking ahead to our spring events. Visit our website at [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com) to keep up with activities in which you can get involved.

The NSU Foundation recently published its first-ever Annual Report to thank our lifetime and annual supporters of both the NSU Foundation and the Demons Unlimited Foundation. If you did not see the report, you can access it at: [northwesternstatealumni.com/nsu-foundation-annual-report](http://northwesternstatealumni.com/nsu-foundation-annual-report)

As Foundation director, as an alumnus and a donor, I am so proud to be part of a team that underpins the mission of our university – helping students reach their goals, creating opportunities and changing lives. We are at an all-time high in engagement and purposeful university development. Every one of you makes this possible. Because of you, more students are earning scholarships and choosing to be part of the NSU family.

Thank you for making 2019 one of the best years of my service to NSU.

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Caron Chester Coleman..... Natchitoches, 2000  
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Allen Evans..... Shreveport, 1989  
John Evans..... Natchitoches, 1992  
Dr. Hayward Hargrove..... Black Mountain, N.C., 1964  
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Carlos Jones..... Round Rock, Texas, 1993  
Gail Jones..... Natchez, 1981, 1998  
Matt Koury..... Leesville, 1995  
Bryant Lewis..... Haynesville, 1958  
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Fall 2019 enrollment at NSU reached 11,081

## Regents approve Master's in CIS, flat rate tuition for RN to BSN

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved two new initiatives at Northwestern State this past summer, a Master's of Science in Computer Information Systems and a flat rate of tuition and fees for registered nurses who would like to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The Master's of Science in CIS will be the first graduate program offered by the School of Business in more than 30 years. The 33-hour degree program would be offered completely online, the only program of its type offered by a public college or university in Louisiana. Students would take nine required classes along with two electives.

The required classes are advanced cyber security, strategic data management and analysis, advanced data communication systems, data structures and algorithm analysis, strategic information systems project management, applied project management, strategic application of enterprise software, research methods in computer information systems and research project and/or thesis.

The elective choices are emerging technologies and human-computer interaction, advanced mobile development, information assurance and decision support systems.

The master's program would build upon Northwestern State's nationally recognized bachelor's program in

computer information systems. Administrators plan to enroll the first cohort of students for the Spring 2020 semester. For more information, contact Curtis Penrod, CIS coordinator, at [penrodc@nsula.edu](mailto:penrodc@nsula.edu). Information on NSU's CIS program is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems/>

Administrators in the College of Nursing plan to launch the flat rate tuition plan for RN to BSN in the Spring 2020 semester.

The program is offered 100 percent online, but students who live near one of NSU's campuses in Natchitoches, Shreveport, Alexandria or Leesville can take the needed general education courses, such as a history or a behavioral science, either in the classroom setting or online. The eight RN to BSN nursing courses are only offered online.

The flat rate tuition cost of \$225 per credit hour also applies to the general education courses that some students may need.

For more information or to apply for NSU's RN to BSN, contact Dr. Ann Deshotels at (318) 613-4990 or [deshotelsa@nsula.edu](mailto:deshotelsa@nsula.edu) or Dr. Anna Morris, program coordinator, at (318) 677-3098 or [morrisa@nsula.edu](mailto:morrisa@nsula.edu)

Information on NSU's College of Nursing is found at [nursing.nsula.edu](http://nursing.nsula.edu).

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## Tyra the Creative is making her own way

Life moves fast for Tyra Morrison and she's ready for it. Morrison, a 2015 graduate in theatre with a concentration in performance and directing, plays the role of Young Amelia in the Netflix Original show "Family Reunion" that first aired in July. "Family Reunion" is a multi-generational show about a family of six who move from Seattle to Columbus, Georgia, to be closer to family. Morrison said the show has an all-black writer's room and pulls from personal stories to create the authenticity of black culture. She plays the 16-year-old version of the main character, M'Dear, in a flashback.

"In the episode, M'Dear's grandchildren are asking questions about her past, so she tells them the story of how she met their grandfather. Young Amelia has a lot of spunk and is very outgoing. I had a blast playing her," said Morrison, who is originally from St. Francisville.

Morrison moved to Los Angeles in early 2018 and got the audition for "Family Reunion" about six months later. At the time Morrison received the audition, she didn't know it was for Netflix but was just happy to be going to an audition. The initial audition led to a call back.

"I was in a trendy bar in downtown Los Angeles, celebrating a commercial booking I'd gotten that morning and my agent

gave me a call and told me I had booked the job," she said. "I ran back in the bar after the call and told (friend and NSU alumna) Alexis Reliford the news. Well, I actually screamed the news to her, and we did a little victory dance. That was one of the best days of my life."

Morrison said she was excited and nervous on the day she shot her scene.

"Everyone was so proud and excited and gave me encouraging words that really gave me the extra confidence I needed. I was nervous because this was my first time in a professional environment and I didn't know what to expect, or really how to carry myself," she said. "But everyone was so nice and patient with me. I met a lot of ladies who were members of my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the director, Eric Dean Seaton, was super cool. I had to do a lot of takes and he took the time to educate me on things I had no idea about while working on a multicam show. The crew had a great family dynamic and it was the perfect atmosphere to create a show all about family."

Morrison said her education helped her get her start in the business.

"Not only did I receive a great education from NSU, but I also received a hunger and ambition that set me apart," she said.

"When I moved to New Jersey in 2016, I did a few independent projects and I always felt a little more equipped, mentally and emotionally, than other actors. Northwestern built the foundation of drive and determination that I have today."

Morrison played Ouiser in a 2014 production of "Steel Magnolias" at NSU and received the Outstanding Supporting Actress Award at the annual Bella Awards. Morrison said she tried out for other roles and was disappointed when she didn't get them, but that actually helped her.

"If I'd gotten cast every semester during college, maybe I wouldn't have dug deep within myself and become the person I am — confident in her work, and sure of herself," said Morrison. "That made me appreciate my education a lot more. When I moved out to Los Angeles and started taking on camera classes, I thought I should start at the beginning, but the beginner classes were just refresher courses for me. I was expecting to go into those classes and not know much at all, because they were TV and film classes, but my professors at Northwestern planted plenty of seeds within me."

Along with acting, Morrison is a plant-based pastry chef, content creator and photographer.

"My goal is to make sure that



Tyra Morrison

all of my interests coexist in my everyday life," said Morrison. "I believe life to be a balancing act. Every area of your life has to counterbalance one another to keep me or any person sane. But ideally, I will have a career that encompasses all of those interests flawlessly, and I have a few ideas up my sleeve of how to make that happen."

She also has a YouTube channel, "Tyra the Creative," with more than 1,500 subscribers, has been invited to BeautyCon and VidCon and held campaigns for Xbox, FILA and Walmart.

"We live in a digital age where we as artists have to make our own works to get our foot in the door," said Morrison. "YouTube has provided countless opportunities for people over the past few years and I plan on using my channel as a vehicle to get me to the goal. It's a platform that allows you to express your creativity freely, and I love that."

## Conway's next big step: A Broadway debut in 'The Tina Turner Musical'



Holti Conway

Holti Conway, Miss Louisiana 2018, will make her Broadway debut this fall in "Tina – The Tina Turner Musical" set to open in the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

Conway is listed in the cast list as an Ikette and member of the ensemble. She said it's going to be a great musical.

"Who didn't look up to Tina Turner?" she laughed, talking about singing along with her songs in the mirror.

Conway, a 2016 magna cum laude graduate of NSU, ended her reign as Miss Louisiana in June. She used her time holding the title to inspire others

and said that she didn't think her goals were big enough when she first won the crown. Broadway has always been her dream. Conway majored in theater with an emphasis on musical theater at Northwestern State and previously acted as a playlist production vocalist for Carnival cruise lines. On the ship, she said, they played "Proud Mary" a lot and did lip sync battles among the employees.

Conway, who won the talent preliminary and was second runner-up in Miss America 2018, came home to Louisiana and started the audition

process. She submitted a tape for the role last November and didn't hear anything until May 12, when she got the call that she needed to continue the audition process. The cast list was announced in July.

Conway will be on stage with Tony-nominated Adrienne Warren playing Tina Turner. Daniel J. Watts is cast as Ike Turner.

Conway made the move to New York City and started costume fittings soon after she was cast.

The first preview will be Oct. 12. Opening night is set for Nov. 7.



## Jennifer Gomez manages the household at La. Governor's Mansion

Jennifer Collins Gomez, a 2009 NSU graduate who earned her degree in musical theatre, is the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Coordinator where she runs the daily operations of the Governor's Mansion under the leadership of Louisiana's First Lady Donna Edwards.

"It is the most challenging and rewarding job I've had to date," she said. "I oversee the production of all food, laundry, ground maintenance, inventory, home maintenance and event operations on a daily basis."

Gomez said seeing the faces of visitors light up when they enter the Mansion is a highlight of the job.

"The history of this building is so rich and being able to tell that story and create such a magical experience for those that come to visit is so fulfilling," she said. "It is also a great honor to be able to work with the Governor and his staff. Not many people get the opportunity to do that, I will cherish these years for the rest of my life."

Gomez began her job on her birthday, June 4, 2018.

Gomez was born in San Diego and moved to Austin, Texas, in third grade and graduated high school in 2005. Her high school

choir teacher took seniors on college tours and auditions, including a stop at Northwestern State. While majoring in musical theater, she worked at the Pioneer Pub and during her sophomore year met Mark Gomez, an acting and directing major from Baton Rouge. After graduation the couple moved to Los Angeles where Jennifer worked as an event coordinator managing large and small events at a venue in Culver City. With a promotion to the management team, she assisted with opening multiple venues around the city. When she and Mark married, they chose to move to Baton Rouge to be closer to family and Jennifer went to work as the event coordinator at recruitment events for the LSU Career Center.

"When we moved to Baton Rouge, I knew I wanted to be as involved as possible. I was an LSU staff senator for nearly three years, holding a board position in my last year, and have been on the board for the Baton Rouge Events Association for roughly three years. I was the director of programming, president-elect, president and now past president for this organization. It was through these associations that I was able to network

with professionals across the city and grew my professional community. Early spring 2018, I received a call from the Governor's Chief of Staff saying I had been recommended to apply for a position at the Governor's Mansion. I would later come to realize that one of the past presidents from the board I was on had recommended me. This is why networking in your community is important."

Jennifer mentioned several faculty mentors from her student days.

"Vicki Parrish was the first professor I met when I did my campus/department walk through. She was like the mama hen of the department. Her kindness was radiating and her door was always open.

"Scott Burrell was our professor and leader of the improv comedy troupe I was on for all four years of college. He taught me to have fun with life but keep it professional.

"Pia Wyatt was the most intimidating professor/dance instructor and everyone knew that her expectations were high. From Scott and Pia, we learned to work hard and be the best at your craft. Study intensely and be proud of what you're creating.



Jennifer Gomez

Although my career transitioned out of acting full time, I will always cherish the skill sets that they instilled in me, making me the hard working, career driven person I am today."

Jennifer's husband Mark is an at-home senior technical advisor for Apple Inc. The couple have a son, Oliver, and another baby expected to arrive in December.

"It's been almost 13 years since we met in the halls of CAPA and I honestly still remember it like it was yesterday. We hold the days we shared at Northwestern so close to our hearts and make it a point to visit campus and our professors any time we're in the area."

## Adam Patrick completes Washington, D.C. internship

Adam Patrick, a 2016 graduate of NSU, completed a summer internship with U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy working on a variety of topics, specifically issues related to illegal immigration and crime trends in Louisiana.

"It was just a great experience having the opportunity to intern for Sen. Cassidy in D.C.," Patrick said. "I accompanied the legislative staffer I was paired with to meetings with organizations and constituents seeking Sen. Cassidy's support for various bills. I attended several House and Senate committee meetings, most of which concerned issues at the southern border of the United States and the conditions at Customs and Border Patrol facilities. The legislative staffer also gave me several research assignments that helped him complete projects he was working on for Sen. Cassidy."

During his internship, Patrick sat in on Cassidy's meetings



Adam Patrick

with officials from the United Kingdom and a federal judicial nominee and attended several Senate and House committee meetings, including hearings regarding overcrowding at Customs and Border Patrol facilities and a banking committee hearing pertaining to a new form of cryptocurrency Facebook is working to launch.

Patrick is a Bastrop native who earned a B.A. in criminal justice

with a minor in philosophy, politics and law at Northwestern. While at NSU, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and served in several leadership roles with Kappa Sigma, including one term as grant treasurer. He also served the Interfraternal Council as the secretary/treasurer and judicial chair for one term each. He was a member of the criminal justice club and a radio DJ for KNWD.

Patrick mentioned Dr. Steve Horton as a special mentor during his time at NSU. Horton served NSU as vice provost, dean of the Graduate School, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of education before accepting the position of director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in 2016.

Patrick previously completed a fellowship at the Louisiana Capitol with the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, where he performed various tasks for the state representatives and state senators who are members of the caucus.

Patrick is a juris doctorate candidate (2020) at the Southern University Law Center. He is parliamentarian of the Student Bar Association, treasurer of Phi Alpha Delta, events co-chair for the Pro-Bono Project and a member of the Board of Student Advisors.



# Spotlights



**Cindy McAbee Chapman**, executive producer at KARE 11 TV in Big Lake, Minnesota, earned the Pinnacle Award for Innovator of the Year from her media company, Tegna, formerly Gannett. The award recognizes members of the company whose work has served the greater good of the community through empowering stories, impactful investigations and innovative marketing services.

Chapman has been at KARE 11 since 1994, rising from producer to senior producer to senior executive producer. She earned a degree in broadcast journalism at NSU in 1988. At KARE, she directs content for multiple newscasts and manages multiple crews of reporters, producers and photographers daily. She was instrumental in launching "Breaking the News," a one-of-a-kind nationally recognized show that is breaking the mold of TV news, and has worked on several innovation pilot projects for Tegna corporate. She has won numerous awards during her career, including national Murrows, Emmy awards and Walter Cronkite Award.

Earlier this year, she spent time with NSU student media leaders during a visit to Minneapolis.

\* \* \*

**Julie Stephenson** (1995), BNS, MBA, joined BioSig Technologies, as senior director of clinical care this past July. BioSig Technologies is a medical device company developing a proprietary biomedical signal-processing technology platform designed to address an unmet need for the electrophysiology marketplace

Stephenson brings to BioSig over 20 years of cardiac device technology experience, having served in various clinical, sales and marketing roles at Medtronic, Boston Scientific and Guidant Corporation. Most recently, she served as director of medical education at Medtronic, a role in which she developed and delivered over 10 national peer-to-peer education programs annually and was responsible for numerous other supplemental educational resources for electrophysiology fellows.

A critical care nurse by training, Stephenson holds a BSN degree from Northwestern State University and MBA from the Darden School of Business at University of Virginia. She received numerous awards, including the President's Club Award, Regional Sales Manager of the Year (New York Area), a Patent Award, and the Faculty Award.

\* \* \*



**Stephen Hernandez** (1995, 2001) was promoted to the rank of colonel in the

U. S. Air Force Reserve and is currently the Deputy Commander of the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron. In August he was reassigned as the reserve augmentee to the dean of the U.S. Air Force, School of Aerospace Medicine at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing at NSU, Hernandez, a Shreveport native, completed a Ph.D. in nursing in 2012 through the University of New Mexico. He was an assistant professor in NSU's College of Nursing from 2002 to 2007 and 2008 to 2013, having taken a year-long break to work at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport.

Hernandez joined the Army Reserves in 1997 and was assigned to the 94<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital. He was deployed to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center from March 2003 to March 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served in the combined intensive care unit.

"When I returned, the Bossier City portion of my unit was being deactivated. I chose to join the Air Force Reserve in late 2004 and served with the 307<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base," he said. "I accepted a position with the University of New Mexico and joined their faculty as an assistant professor in July 2013. At the same time, I transferred to an Air Force Reserve unit in Colorado, the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron. I served in successive leadership positions including chief nurse, interim squadron commander and I am currently the deputy commander for the unit."

Hernandez was promoted to associate professor in 2018. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in June.

\* \* \*





**Trevor Bailey** was named assistant director of bands at the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky. Bailey comes to UPIKE from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he completed a graduate teaching assistantship at the University of Alabama. There he assisted in the daily operations of the band program, supervised 400 students of the Million Dollar Band and aided in the planning and execution of the Crimson Cavalcade of Bands, Alabama Honor Bands and Summer Crimson Music Camps. In addition, he served as the conductor of the University Band and doctoral conducting associate for the Alabama Wind Ensemble.

Before his time in Tuscaloosa, Bailey earned a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Nevada-Reno where he served as a graduate teaching assistant with the band program, was a member of the music department's recruiting team, assisted in hosting the College Band Directors National Association Western/Northwestern Division and American Bandmasters Association conferences, and taught undergraduate courses in conducting and marching band techniques.

He received his bachelor's degree in

music performance from Northwestern State University in 2011. He was a member of the Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble and served as the baritone section leader for The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band at the university.

Bailey will be completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting later this year.



**Lisa McKee Burns** was named 2020 Louisiana Elementary Principal of the Year at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards held in Baton Rouge July 19. Burns is principal of W.T. Lewis Elementary in Bossier Parish where she began her journey in administration as the school's first assistant principal. Maintaining a standard of excellence, the school has earned an "A" rating each year of her principalship, and in 2018 W.T. Lewis was recognized as a Top Gains School and an Equity Honoree.

Burns earned a bachelor's degree in education at NSU in 1997 and a master's in education with emphasis on technology in 2005. She completed a master's in educational leadership at

LSU-Shreveport in 2008.

As Louisiana Elementary Principal of the Year, Burns plans to share how she evolved as a leader and inspired positive change at her school after serving as one of the school's leaders for almost a decade.

As a student, Burns was a Freshman Connector, Demon Dazzler and president of Phi Mu.

\* \* \*

**Jeffrey Powell** is the newly selected superintendent of the Rapides Parish School Board. He has over 20 years of experience as an educator including teaching in Grant Parish, assistant principal at Buckeye High School, principal at Tioga Junior High, director of middle and magnet programs in Rapides Parish and chief academic officer in Iberville Parish.

Powell is a graduate of Northwood High School and has been a resident of Central Louisiana for almost 25 years. He received his B.A. in business administration from LSU and has a teacher certification and master's degree in education leadership from Northwestern State University. Jeffrey also served for six years in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

\* \* \*

NSU graduate **R. Allyce Hill Bailey** served as the 2018-19 Chief of Communications for the National Bar Association. Her service concluded at the 2019 NBA Convention in New York City. The NBA was formed in 1925 when African American lawyers were denied membership into the American Bar Association. Bailey holds a master's degree in English from NSU and is a member of the law firm Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, P.A. in South Carolina.



## Hunter Bower pens history of Haynesville football

NSU alum Hunter Bower has published a book about one of Louisiana's most talked-about high school football programs. "Haynesville Football: A History of Louisiana's Winningest High School Football Program" details the history of the program from its humble beginnings in 1907 to its powerhouse teams of today.

Bower launched the book with a reception and signing in at Killgore's Pharmacy in Haynesville in August.

Through the book, Golden Tornado fans will once again experience the glory days of coaching greats, memorable players, unforgettable moments and championship memories. The book includes how the successful Woodson Tiger squad helped play an integral part in the success of football in the town of Haynesville. Just like the pages of a family scrapbook, "Haynesville Football" is stuffed with rarely-seen snapshots, images and photos telling the history of the Golden Tornado in vivid, graphic and entertaining format.

"This book will serve as a one-of-a-kind keepsake for those who have played, coached, cheered or supported



**Hunter Bower**

football in the town of Haynesville," Bower said. "I am excited to share the stories and pictures of not only the Golden Tornado football team but of the Woodson Mighty Tiger squad as well. Those who buy this book will not be disappointed."

Bower was born and raised in Haynesville. He is a 2015 graduate of Northwestern State. In high school, Bower was the statistician for the Golden Tornado football team and published his first book at the age of 16. His love and passion for sports led him to working in the Sports Information

Department at Northwestern State as a student assistant.

He eventually moved to Lake Charles and worked in the Sports Information Office at McNeese State.

He won multiple awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America during his time at McNeese and was instrumental in helping to jump start the athletic department's social media campaign mission.

Bower is married to the former Mason Lyon of Lake Charles and has one dog, Jolie Blonde.

Books are available for purchase at Killgore's Pharmacy and online at: [Facebook.com/HaynesvilleFootball](https://www.facebook.com/HaynesvilleFootball)



## Lesson of Brian Sanders' 'Leadership Endurance': Don't Quit



**Brian Sanders**

Growing up in Red River Parish, Brian Sanders dreamed mostly of being a lot like his dad and grandpa, both named Jack.

"They were solid, hard-working men who taught me everything I know about people and about life," Brian said.

He never really thought much about writing books or running a group of radio stations. But that's exactly where he has ended up as executive vice president of Positive Alternative Radio (PAR) and the author of a new book, "Leadership Endurance," which hit #1 on Amazon's best seller list for Christian leadership earlier this year.

"If you've ever felt like quitting anything, this book is for you," Sanders said.

"My goal in writing the book is to help

anyone who is a leader or aspires to leadership to not just make it, but to thrive and last a long time once they are in that chair," Sanders said. "It's one thing to be asked to lead; it's another to be able to do it for the long haul."

He began reading and studying leadership trying to overcome his failures, Sanders said.

"I pastored churches and ran radio stations and did other things as a leader. Sometimes I failed miserably. God used those circumstances to humble and teach me. That's when I decided to start studying leadership and it has become the goal of my life to better understand the influence leaders have on others."

His pursuit of leadership and his love of history naturally led him to Abraham Lincoln and other historical figures.

"I wanted to find out how Lincoln made it. He is no doubt our greatest president, a man who came through great professional and personal tragedy and adversity to accomplish what no one thought possible. He literally brought this country back from the brink of disaster."

Sanders grew up in Coushatta, the son of Jack and Ruth Sanders, and graduated in 1986 from Coushatta High School.

While in high school, he worked at Coushatta's local station KRRP radio in the afternoons.

He then attended Northwestern State University and graduated in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in history and English. After graduation, he went to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he garnered 59 hours toward a Master of Divinity degree. While there, he met his wife, Kayla, and began his career in Christian radio.

"My roots in Red River Parish run deep," Sanders said. "The area shaped me by giving me my values and outlook on life, and there isn't a day that goes by where I don't think about all the people here who have influenced me and sparked an interest in leadership in me even when I was a small boy."

Sanders' mother, Ruth, still lives in Coushatta as do their best friends, Troy and Rhonda Murray.

Sanders took about a year to write "Leadership Endurance." It became a part of his daily routine after a conversation with a friend who told him, "if you want to write a book, just commit to writing two or three chapters a day and in a year, you'll reach your goal."

"Writing turned out to be the easy part," Sanders said. "The editing process was

## Veteran journalist Gary Fields moves to New York City to join AP



**Gary Fields**

NSU graduate (1982, 1984) Gary Fields is joining a new team that will expand religion news reporting in the U.S. and around the world.

Religion News Foundation, Religion News Service, The Associated Press and The Conversation have created a global religion journalism initiative that includes a joint global religion news desk to cover major world religions with emphasis on explaining religious practices and principles behind current events and cultural movements.

Fields, along with other journalists, will produce multifaceted religion journalism intended to improve general understanding and analyze the significance of developments in the world of faith.

"I will be helping lead a new team that will report on religion and its influence throughout the world. As one of the AP's lead editors I will help direct a team funded by a \$4.9 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The AP will work with Religion News Service and The Conversation to improve understanding of how religion impacts culture, history, politics and other

developments," Fields explained. "The new job combines my 35-plus years of journalism background with the international work I have been doing the last two years working for Lutheran World Relief-IMA World Health and my spiritual life."

Fields' experience in journalism ranges from sports reporting at The Natchitoches Times to police reporting in

Washington, D.C., and 26 years as a national reporter at USA Today and The Wall Street Journal. He joined the Journal's Washington bureau in 2000 covering the Justice Department where he was involved in the paper's 9/11, anthrax and sniper coverage before expanding to examine the federal sentencing guidelines. Fields was among the reporters who contributed to the work which received the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for the paper's coverage of the 9/11 attacks.

During his prolific career, Fields has also covered the criminal justice systems of Native American tribes, the federal criminal code, the U.S. mental health system, law enforcement certification standards and other topics. He has been recognized with many awards for outstanding reporting, including the Thurgood Marshall Award, a National Press Foundation Freddie and the White House Press Correspondents' Edgar A. Poe Award.

Most recently Fields has worked for Lutheran World Relief/IMA World Health as the senior manager of content. Prior to joining the Journal he worked at USA Today covering the Justice Department.

Fields was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up in Germany and Japan before his military family settled in Alexandria. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism and an master's in English literature from Northwestern State where he was involved with the Student Union Governing Board, was an RA at Varnado Hall, a member and officer of Alpha Phi Alpha, Blue Key, Sigma Delta Chi and other organizations, all of which he credits helping prepare for his career.

He was NSU's Spring 2015 commencement speaker and also spoke at the Investiture of NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. He is a member of the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction.

"At LWR-IMA I was the senior content manager, which allowed me to travel to several countries in Africa to examine our projects and write about them for internal and external audiences. It is eye opening to see how people live elsewhere and how fortunate I am to have been born here. Things we take for granted, like drinkable water and access to the most basic medical care, are not prevalent throughout the world. My organization tries to provide for those needs in several dozen countries.

"On a personal level I am on the board of directors of a 2,000-member church in Silver Spring, Maryland, where I help oversee a multi-million dollar annual budget. Until taking this job I also directed the confirmation program, which is an intense two-year program for middle school students to examine the world's religions and faiths."

Fields and his wife have three daughters and three dogs and live in Silver Spring where he is a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. and a former board member of the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

brutal. And getting out there and telling my story has been no real picnic for me. I am just not used to the limelight."

In pursuing the book project, Sanders has found himself doing video, posing for pictures, submitting to interviews and more.

"Video has been the biggest hurdle for me. I am used to sitting behind the microphone and talking and not having a camera in my face. It's been an adjustment, for sure."

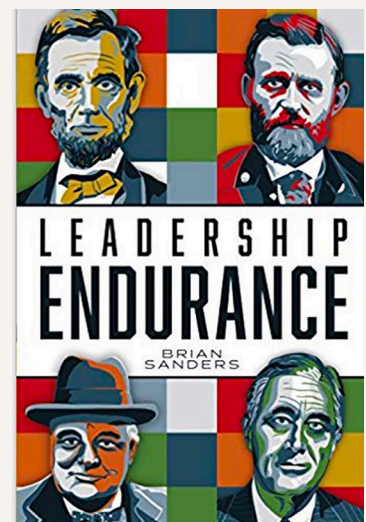
Today, Sanders and Kayla live in the New River Valley of Virginia with one very spoiled pup named Sprocket.

His work responsibilities for PAR present leadership challenges and real-life lessons every day for his readers, Sanders said.

Created in 1985 by the late Dr. Vernon H. Baker and his wife Virginia, PAR is overseen by Sanders as EVP and its President, Eddie Baker, son of the founders. PAR owns and operates stations and networks in key markets in Virginia, Eastern Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The stations provide adult contemporary Christian and gospel music, as well as Christian content available across a variety of digital platforms, including the Encouraging Radio app, available for free download for smart phones and tablets.

Sanders can be reached at:  
[info@parfm.com](mailto:info@parfm.com)





## III | NORTHWESTERN STATE HOMECOMING *Schedule-at-a-Glance 2019*

### Thursday, Oct. 17

**9:30 a.m. – J. Walter Porter Forum**  
David Morgan Room (Room 107) – Russell Hall

### Friday, Oct. 18

**9 a.m. – Alumni Association Board Meeting**  
Student Union - Cane River Room

**– NSU Foundation Board Meeting**  
Caspari Hall Conference Room - 3rd Floor

**12 p.m. – Homecoming Golf Tournament**  
NSU Rec Complex (Noon Lunch, 1 p.m. Tee Off)

**5:30 p.m. – Homecoming Parade**  
Second Street, Rue Toulaine, Riverbank

**6 p.m. – Pep Rally**  
Downtown Riverbank Stage

**6:30 p.m. – Rockin' on the Riverbank**  
Homecoming Festival, Fleur de Lis State,  
Downtown Natchitoches

**7 p.m. – NSU Black Alumni Alliance Mixer**  
The Loft, 530 Front St.

**7:30 p.m. – Homecoming Awards**  
During Rockin' on the Riverbank

**8 p.m. – LA Roxx Concert**  
Cane River Brewing (*Admission charge*)

### Saturday, Oct. 19 (a.m.)

**9 a.m. – Homecoming Alumni Breakfast and Bingo**  
Collins Pavilion

**10 a.m. – N Club Hall of Fame Induction**  
Magale Recital Hall

**11 a.m. – College of Business and Technology Outstanding Business Awards & Reception**  
Russell Hall - Natchitoches Room

**– BAA Meeting/ Membership Drive**  
Student Union - Cane River Room

**– Department of Social Work Open House**  
Kyser Hall Room 345B

### Saturday, Oct. 19 (p.m.)

**12 p.m. – XI Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.**  
45th anniversary celebration,  
Ben Johnson Auditorium

**1 p.m. – BAA Tailgate Party,**  
NSU Practice Field

**1 p.m. – College of Education Reunion/Reception**  
TEC Commons

**1:30 p.m. – Hall of Distinguished Educators Induction Ceremony**  
Teacher Education Center Auditorium, Pod A

**2 p.m. – Demon Regiment Open House**  
James A. Noe Military Science Building

**– Tailgating Activities**  
Collins Pavilion, Donald's Demon Alley,  
and Practice Field

**– Xi Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta tailgate**

**3 p.m. – English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies Tailgate**  
Near Tennis Courts

**5:30 p.m. – Pregame Activities**  
Turpin Stadium

**5:45 p.m. – Distinguished Educators and College of Business honorees and new N Club members**  
Recognized on field

**6 p.m. – Northwestern State vs. Central Arkansas**  
Turpin Stadium

**7:30 p.m.\* – Halftime Ceremonies**  
Turpin Stadium (*\*approximate time*)

**10 p.m. – NSU BAA After Party**  
The Loft, 530 Front St.

\*\*\*\* Events, times and locations are subject to change \*\*\*\*



## Nursing, Radiologic Sciences will celebrate milestone birthdays

Northwestern State University's College of Nursing is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and the Radiologic Sciences program is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year. The College of Nursing and School of Allied Health are planning events for alumni and friends in Shreveport, Alexandria and Natchitoches to commemorate the milestone years.



A reception for all alumni, friends and community partners from Alexandria and Leesville will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10 at NSU's Cenla Campus, located within the England Industrial Airpark and Community, 1420 Neal Kirby Drive, Alexandria. Those who plan to attend the Alexandria reception should RSVP to Gwen Cope at (318) 769-7991 or [copeg@nsula.edu](mailto:copeg@nsula.edu) before Oct. 1.

The College of Nursing and School of Allied health invite all alumni to join them during Homecoming festivities when they will host a tailgate beginning at 3 p.m. at the CONSAH Tent near Collins Pavilion and the Alumni Tent. Tickets to the football game will be available for all NSU nursing and radiologic sciences alumni. Guests who plan to attend the tailgate are asked to RSVP to Chari Addison at (318) 357-6877 or [addisonc@nsula.edu](mailto:addisonc@nsula.edu) by Oct. 11.

Shreveport alumni and friends are invited to a reception that will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25 at NSU's Shreveport Nursing Education Center, 1800 Line Ave. Guests who plan to attend the Shreveport reception are asked to RSVP to Eloise Chambers at (318) 677-3020 or [chamberse@nsula.edu](mailto:chamberse@nsula.edu) by Oct. 14.

## Delta Sigma Theta Line 18 planning 20-year reunion

The Elusive Eighteen crossed over into Iota Mu chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. on Dec. 2, 1999.

The line was composed of Marian Williams Gardner, Cendi Coutee Carpenter, Heather Iles Goodman, Shuvon Wilson, LaShenquita Claiborne, Chantel Gideon, Sherice Jenkins Forte, Michelle Warren, Shameka Wiley, Rosalind Calloway Nelson, Shondale Smith Coleman, LaDonna Washington, Mosley, Fredreka Levingston Levias, Jeri Brumfield, Nicole Jagers, Lisa Cox Moses, Tametha Germany Weatherston and Chelsa Patterson.

This group will celebrate their 20th anniversary in the sorority this year. A reunion trip has been planned and plans to meet back at their beloved NSU for this year's homecoming are underway. They are also individually supporting the Calls for a Cause initiative which is being coordinated by another Iota Mu DST line celebrating their 10th anniversary at this year's homecoming.

The ladies/alums of NSU have moved on into to their professional lives to become nurse practitioners, teachers, school district and healthcare administrators, marketing directors, social workers, an EMT, several nurses and a private business owner.

## Save The Date



Mark your calendars for NSU's  
**3rd annual Flavor of Louisiana,**  
 a seafood extravaganza to raise funds  
 for student scholarships  
**April 3, 2020**





## Gala will move to Natchitoches Events Center, historic Strand Theatre

The 2019 NSU Christmas Gala, the wildly popular holiday extravaganza that features the talents of students and faculty in the School of Creative and Performing Arts, will move to a new venue for local performances and return to the storied Strand Theatre in Shreveport for an exhibition performance.

The Natchitoches performances will be at the Natchitoches Events Center while A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Auditorium at NSU is under renovation. Shows will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4; 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 and 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

The Gala at the Strand will be performed at 4 and 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

All tickets are general admission and will be sold for \$15. No discounts or refunds will be available.

"The Natchitoches performances will have reduced seating and will sell out early," said Scott Burrell, director of the Dear School for Creative and Performing Arts. "The earlier patrons purchase tickets the better."

More than 300 Northwestern State students, faculty and staff in the School of Creative and Performing Arts combine their talents to present the Gala as a kickoff to the Christmas season. The Gala is based on the long-running Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

Performing ensembles include the

NSU Chamber Choir, Gala Choir, the NSU Jazz Orchestra, Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra, Demon Dazzlers, Rockettes, Toy Soldiers and more. Popular guest artists will round out the list of performers.

This marks the third time the Gala has gone on the road to the Shreveport's historic Strand Theatre. In 2015 and 2017, the cast and crew of the Christmas Gala wowed audiences in sold out performances at the historic venue that drew viewers from throughout north Louisiana and east Texas.

Tickets for Gala and Gala at the Strand will be available for purchase on the CAPA webpage at [capa.nsula.edu](http://capa.nsula.edu). For information, call (318) 357-4522.

## Compete LA wants to help adults complete degrees

Earlier this year, the University of Louisiana System launched a program designed to re-engage the 653,000 citizens of Louisiana who have some college credit but no degree. The initiative – Compete LA – is designed to cut through the red tape of returning to school and provides support at every step of the student's educational journey.

"For Louisiana to be competitive in the economy of the future, we have to develop a more educated workforce," said Dr. Jim Henderson (1994), CEO of the UL System and former NSU president. "Louisianians can compete at the highest levels provided they have the educational foundation to adapt in this new technology-driven reality."

Compete LA features adult-friendly degree paths throughout the system's nine member institutions. Each Compete LA student is matched with a free coach to assist in identifying the best path to degree completion, re-enrollment and academic success.

Northwestern State is featuring 11 degree programs in Compete LA that include accounting, addiction studies, allied health, business administration, computer information sciences, criminal justice, general studies, nursing,

psychology and unified public safety administration.

"NSU offers a 'fast track' curriculum with eight- and 16-week courses," said Dr. Darlene Williams, NSU's vice president for Technology, Innovation and Economic Development. "This is a great opportunity for students who are trying to complete degrees while working full time. NSU accepts credits from any other regionally accredited university, and students can also take advantage of prior learning assessment determined to be college level learning."

Students interested in finishing their degree can apply at [CompeteLA.org](http://CompeteLA.org) or through the program's mobile app found in the App Store and on Google Play.



POWERED BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## Turpin Media Level, student scholarship will bear Ireland's name

Longtime Northwestern State scribe Doug Ireland spent countless fall nights on the Turpin Stadium press level, feverishly recounting the latest Demon football contests. Now, that press area high above the Turpin turf will bear his name.

Starting in the 2019 football season, media have been composing their own NSU football articles on the Doug Ireland Media Level of Turpin Stadium.

A 1986 broadcast journalism graduate from Northwestern State, Ireland returned to his alma mater in January 1989 and began a three-decade career promoting NSU's 14 intercollegiate teams.

Armed with nearly a decade's worth of experience in newspapers and as an assistant sports information director at UL Lafayette, Ireland quickly put his stamp on NSU athletics. His 1992 football media guide earned Best in the Nation honors in the Football Championship Subdivision ranks from the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America.

The award-winning sports information director took home 33 Louisiana Sports Writers Associations honors just since 2000, including the 2017 Louisiana Sports Writers Association Story of the Year.

The majority of those honors came from telling the stories of Northwestern

State athletes, coaches and support staff members.

He's tutored a wide range of sports information protégés, including directors at Kansas State, McNeese and Northwestern State, an associate commissioner of the Southland

Conference and others that have worked at LSU, Vanderbilt, Penn State and other institutions and publications.

Ireland's career has had many branches and a vast impact, including his volunteer role as chairman of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, housed in Natchitoches.

His friendly face greeted numerous Louisiana Sports Hall of Famers and has been part of a weekend experience that has hall of famers returning each year for a new class of inductees.

This past July, hundreds of Ireland's friends and colleagues gathered for a retirement roast in which the Demons Unlimited Foundation announced the creation of the Doug Ireland Extra Effort Scholarship, to be awarded to a student-athlete or student worker in the athletic department, nominated by a coach or staff member, who along



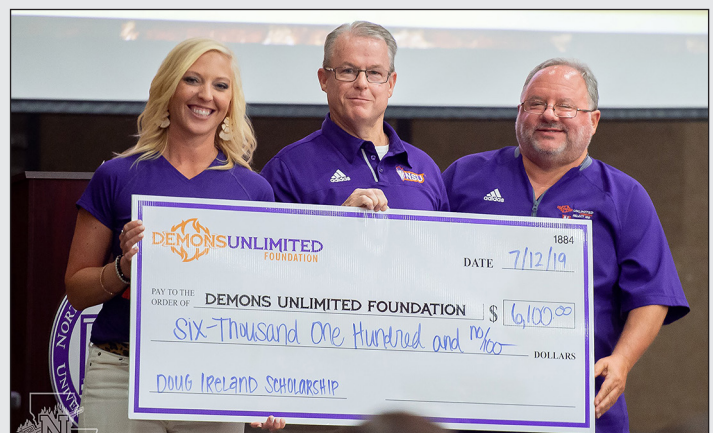
with outstanding effort in athletic pursuits, also has achievement/involvement in other capacities such as community service, academics, and/or is overcoming challenging circumstances.

The scholarship was established through an initial donation of \$6,100, and thanks to proceeds from Ireland's retirement roast and additional donations, now totals nearly \$12,000.

"The outpouring of appreciation I've received has been almost beyond my capacity to comprehend," Ireland said. "I've been touched by every kind word and profoundly moved by the establishment of this scholarship, and the generous gifts made to support it. I'm so grateful. We'll be able to provide a lift to deserving NSU students, to make their college days better, and that has always been my most important goal while serving my alma mater."



Lots of laughs and memories were shared during the Diggin' Dougie Retirement Roast. Joining the fun were, front row from left, Brad Laird, Buddy Wood, Kent Lowe, Doug Ireland, Dr. Chis Maggio and Vicky Simms Newsom. On the back row are Teddy Allen, Greg Burke, Dr. Tommy Newsom, Patrick Netherton and Jack Brittain.



Announced during his retirement roast, the Doug Ireland Extra Effort Scholarship will be awarded to a student-athlete or student worker in the athletic department, who along with outstanding effort in athletic pursuits, has achievement/involvement in other capacities such as community service, academics and/or is overcoming challenging circumstances. From left are Dr. Haley Taitano, Athletic Director Greg Burke and Doug Ireland.





*The Spirit of Northwestern, the Best Sounding Band in the Land, has a record-breaking 342 members for the 2019 season, including 120 new freshmen members. With three veteran drum majors, the band began rehearsals in early August to prepare for its season debut in Turpin Stadium on Sept. 7 and an appearance at LSU - Baton Rouge on Sept. 14.*

## Mathematics faculty seeking support for Chadick professorship

Donations to a professorship honoring the memory of Dr. Stan Chadick, a member of the Northwestern State University faculty for 37 years, have reached almost \$15,000 with 3 to 1 matching commitments from Dr. Chadick's son, Cabe Chadick, and an anonymous faculty member.

Chadick's colleagues in the Department of Mathematics established the professorship earlier this year to honor the memory of an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend.

The department set a goal to raise \$80,000 in contributions that will be matched by \$20,000 from the Board of Regents. Income from the endowment will be awarded to a professor in the department who is involved in professional development of K-16 teachers and/or student activities.

Chadick, who was named professor emeritus, passed away in 2017. During his tenure at NSU, he served as a full-time faculty member, head of the Department of Mathematics and the first director of the Louisiana Scholars' College. He was the curriculum coordinator at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts at the school's inception. He helped develop the curriculum and supervised the 45 teachers at LSMAS during the first two years.

For more information, contact NSU Director of Development Jill Bankston, CFRE, at [bankstonj@nsula.edu](mailto:bankstonj@nsula.edu) or (318) 357-4241. Gifts can be mailed to the NSU Office of University Advancement, Development Office, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Information and an online form is available at [northwesternalumni.com](http://northwesternalumni.com).

## Faculty/staff recognized for commitment to NSU Foundation



The Northwestern State University Foundation recognized faculty and staff who supported the Foundation with 20 or more years of consecutive giving. Those employees were honored during the university's annual faculty/staff lunch. From left are Doug Ireland, recently retired Sports Information Director; Dean of Students Frances Conine, Athletic Director Greg Burke, Vice President of External Affairs Jerry Pierce and Bill Brent, director of Operations and Special Projects.



The Northwestern State University Foundation recognized Dr. Leigh Ann Myers, professor of mathematics, as the top faculty donor to the Foundation for her generosity in supporting student scholarships and other endeavors. Myers and other supporters were honored during the annual faculty/staff luncheon.



*The McCullen family of Natchitoches initiated a scholarship to benefit Northwestern State University nursing students through a donation to the NSU Foundation. From left are David and Beth McCullen, Brandon and McCall McCullen, Wayne and Sandra McCullen and Michelle and Rob Posey. Of the eight, seven are Northwestern graduates. The scholarship commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wayne and Sandra's graduation from NSU and their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*



## McCullen Family Scholarship commemorates deep ties to NSU

The McCullen Family of Natchitoches has created an endowed scholarship through the Northwestern State University Foundation that will benefit upper level nursing students. Wayne and Sandra McCullen created the scholarship to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation dates from Northwestern in 1969 and 1970 and their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The couple hopes the scholarship will help "someone in clinicals who is very serious about being a nurse," they said.

The McCullens, along with their children and their spouses David and Beth McCullen of Oxford, Mississippi; Brandon and McCall McCullen of Benton and Rob and Michelle McCullen Posey of Benton, joined faculty and administrators from Northwestern State University's College of Nursing

to discuss needs the scholarship will fill and the family's history with Northwestern State. In Mr. and Mrs. McCullen's immediate family, four out of five are NSU graduates and, including their children's spouses, seven out of eight are NSU graduates.

"This is very dear to me," Wayne McCullen said. "I give a lot of credit to NSU for my success."

Mr. McCullen was a first-generation college student from Springhill. After earning his bachelor's degree in nursing at Northwestern, he pursued a degree in anesthesia at the University of South Alabama and served as the director of anesthesia at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center from 1974 to 2000.

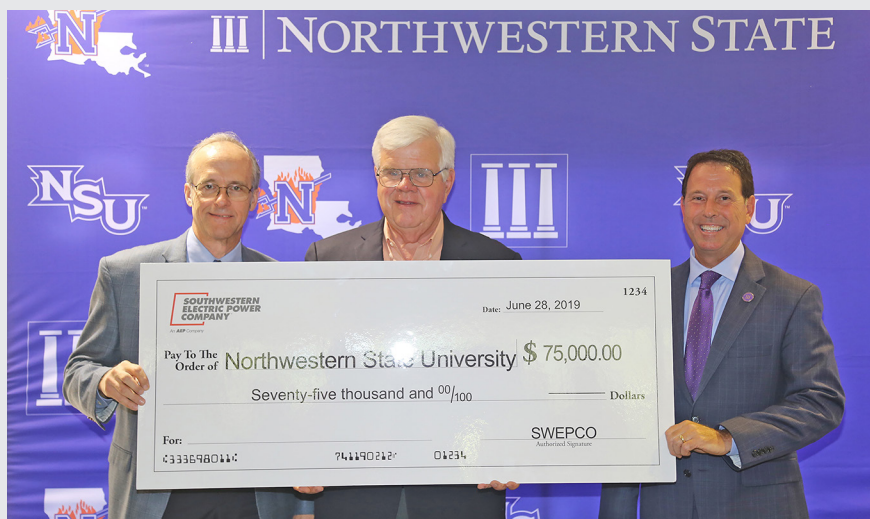
Mr. McCullen was a three-term mayor of Natchitoches, leading the city from 2000 to 2012. Prior to that, he served

on the Natchitoches City Council from 1980 to 2000. Northwestern State honored him with an Nth Degree for meritorious service and in 2012 he was inducted into the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction.

Mrs. McCullen graduated from Baton Rouge High School and completed her nursing degree at NSU in 1970. As an RN, she held several positions in nursing care and administration at Natchitoches Parish Hospital, including taking time off when each of their children was born. She was active in the community while raising a family and supporting her husband's political life.

The McCullens have been members of First Baptist Church for over 50 years and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Aug. 9.

## Valley/SWEPCO continues support



*Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell presented a check to the Northwestern State University Foundation that will fund scholarships, endowments and grants. The funds arose from the purchase of Valley Electric Membership Cooperative by SWEPCO in 2010. From left are SWEPCO President and CEO Malcolm Smoak, Campbell and NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. Maggio said the total to date of \$306,000 from Valley/SWEPCO is being used to match \$80,000 in State Board of Regents funding, bringing the total budget impact on the Natchitoches school to \$386,000.*





CLARK



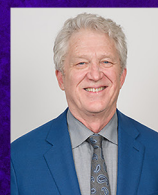
GREEN



KARIS



KENNEY



MCCONATHY



PAYNE HOWE



SALIM



WAGGONER



WRIGHT

## N Club 2019 Class will be honored during Oct. 19 induction ceremonies

Longtime Northwestern State basketball coach Mike McConathy, Louisiana's all-time winningest college hoops coach, joins two cornerstones of the Demons' national FCS semifinal football team, defensive backs Mike Green and Kenny Wright, among NSU's N-Club Hall of Fame induction class for 2019.

Lady Demon basketball star Judy Clark, Demon basketball sharpshooter Wayne Waggoner, soccer standout Missy Payne Howe, and baseball pitcher Bob Kairis are also part of the Class of 2019.

Receiving the N-Club's Distinguished Service Award for 2019 will be Robert «Skeeter» Salim, a tennis player as an undergraduate who has become a nationally acclaimed attorney while providing pivotal support to the Demon baseball program and other NSU sports.

Also to be inducted will be softball great Brandy Kenney, who was chosen as part of the 2018 class but had to miss last year's festivities.

They were selected by a combination of voting by members of the N-Club, the association of former athletic letter winners at NSU, and a committee of N-Club members and NSU administrators.

Enshrinement in the N-Club Hall of Fame is the highest honor Northwestern bestows on its former competitors and staff. Those receiving N-Club Hall of Fame recognition are showcased in the year-old N-Club display in Prather Coliseum.

The 2019 induction ceremony is at 10 a.m. Oct. 19 at the Magale Recital Hall, open to the public free of charge. The honorees will also be recognized that evening in Turpin Stadium during the Demon football game against Central Arkansas.

McConathy and Waggoner will join

their late fathers in the N-Club Hall of Fame. Johnny McConathy and Bernard Waggoner were teammates on a 23-5 NAIA semifinalist squad in 1948-49 that held the school record for wins until the 2005-06 Demons finished 26-8, including an NCAA Tournament victory over 15th-ranked Iowa.

McConathy begins his 21st season as the Demons' coach this November as the winningest collegiate basketball coach in state history (647 in 35 seasons, 20 at NSU). His Demons have three NCAA Tournament berths (2001, 2006, 2013), another national postseason tournament appearance (2014 College Insider), two NCAA wins (2001, 2006), and seven Southland Conference Tournament championship game appearances in 12 tournament appearances. In 1999, he took over a program with no postseason history and only five winning seasons in 24 years of Division I competition.

His teams have led the nation in scoring and twice have earned NCAA public recognition for academic performance as well as national acclaim for community service. McConathy received the prestigious National Association of Basketball Coaches Guardian of the Game Pillar Award for Education at the 2012 Final Four.

Green and Wright are Ruston High School products who had long NFL careers after helping coach Sam Goodwin's Demons to back-to-back Southland championships and FCS playoff appearances in 1997-98.

Green, the 2000 NFL Draft's «Mr. Irrelevant,» became one of the great success stories in draft history, playing nine years in the pro ranks, most as a productive starting safety for the Chicago Bears. In the NFL he had 426 tackles, 21 pass breakups, 7 forced fumbles, 6 sacks and 4 interceptions in 104 games (48 starts) from 2000-08. Twice,

Green made over 100 tackles, 129 in 2002 and 106 in 2004, leading all NFL defensive backs in tackles in 2002.

He was the 254th and final 2000 NFL Draft selection after earning All-America honors as a safety in his final two seasons at NSU, becoming the fifth football player to be a two-time All-American. Green was part of four Southland Conference championships, two in football (1997, 1998) and two in track (1998, 2000), with his stirring anchor leg on the 4x400 relay winning the 2000 Southland title for NSU.

A safety converted to cornerback in 1998, Wright had NSU career totals of 148 tackles, five interceptions and nine pass breakups as a two-year starter after transferring in 1996 from Arkansas following his freshman season. A fourth-round 1999 NFL Draft choice (Vikings), he was also a starter for Houston, Jacksonville and Washington in nine pro seasons, making 245 tackles and seven interceptions.

The 1998-99 Southland Conference Player of the Year, Clark ranks among the most dynamic guards in school history. A former state player of the year at Singer High School, she scored 1,616 points in 112 games (14.4 average), seventh all-time in program history at the end of her career. Clark also finished her career second all-time at NSU in assists (609, 5.4 average) and sixth in steals (238, 2.1 average). She twice led the team in scoring and topped Coach James Smith's clubs in assists and steals in each of her four seasons.

Waggoner, a 6-2 point guard for the Demons from 1980-1982, was an NBA Draft pick (1983, 6th round) who made it to the last cut with the Dallas Mavericks. He was All-Trans America Athletic Conference both years he played for the Demons. Waggoner

## NSU joins growing number of universities selling beer at sporting events

The Northwestern State Athletic Department announced in August it received approval to sell beer and spiked seltzers during football games at Turpin Stadium for the 2019 football season. Northwestern State also will sell the same offerings at baseball and softball games in 2020.

NSU's alcohol sales policy can be found on its website here: <https://nsudemons.com/sports/2019/8/16/Alcohol%20Policy.aspx>

The decision was met with applause and cheers.

"This addition to the NSU football in-game experience has been in the works for the past several years, so it is exciting for it to finally come to fruition," NSU Director of Athletics Greg Burke said. "The fact that



recent postseason surveys from our fans fervently have requested the sale of beer further reflects that this move will be a positive as it relates to fan satisfaction."

Alcohol sales will originate from the main concession stand on the west side of Turpin Stadium as well as concession stands on the east side and the third floor of the stadium. Customers will be limited to two drinks per trip through the line and sales will end at the conclusion of the third quarter. All purchasers will be required to show their ID at the concession stands at the time of purchase.

Additionally, there will be a no re-entry policy at the stadium this season.

Sodexo, Northwestern State Athletics' catering partner, collaborated on the policy for the sale of beer and wine at Turpin Stadium.

## Meet The Demons nets \$70,000 in support of student-athletes



*A rousing success after being rebranded two years ago, Northwestern State's biennial Meet The Demons scholarship auction grossed over \$70,000. Proceeds support over 300 student athletes who represent NSU in their chosen sport. The event included Purple Carpet photos of guests, social hour, dinner, live and silent auction and Final Five Drawing. Guests were able to meet many of the student athletes as well as spirit groups and fellow Demon and Lady Demon supporters. The next Meet the Demons Scholarship Auction will be in August 2021*

averaged 16.8 points per game in his 56-game NSU career with two of top scoring totals in school history in his two seasons (446, 15.9 ppg in 1980-81; 493, 17.6 ppg for a 19-9 squad in 1981-82). Waggoner led the 1981-82 Demons with 111 assists and 38.5 minutes per game and shot an incredible 57 percent overall.

Payne, only the second N-Club Hall of Fame inductee from her two-decades-old sport, was a three-time All-Southland Conference selection, twice second team (1999, 2001) and first team as a junior in 2000 when the Lady Demons made their first NCAA Tournament appearance. The midfielder played in 58 games, starting 57, and scored 35 points with 8 goals and nine assists. She had game-winning goals in consecutive conference games to help NSU win the 2000 Southland regular-season and tournament championships.

Kairis, who pitched for NSU in 1987-88,

set a school single-season strikeout record in 1987 (102, now sixth all-time) and topped that by one (103, fifth all-time) as a senior. His 205 Ks tied the then-school career record, set in four years. He played in all but two games in 1987, pitching (3-6, 5 saves in 21 appearances, 9 starts) while also being a starting centerfielder (hit .304, tops on the team, with 45 hits, 11 doubles), and struck out 11 LSU batters in a 1987 game. Kairis was a first-team All-Southland Conference pick as a pitcher in 1988 who was drafted by Cleveland (23rd round, 1988) and was the Indians' minor league player of the year in his first year as a pro.

A tennis letterman from 1968-72 who has become a highly successful attorney with offices in Natchitoches and Houston, Salim's support of Demon baseball has been pivotal for over two decades, resulting in significant facility enhancements and more. Also a significant supporter of men's

and women's basketball through the years, Salim's engagement with Demon baseball began in the John Cohen era and his involvement was vital to the renovations of Brown-Stroud Field led by Cohen in 2000, and improvements large and small since.

Salim, who has been actively involved in youth baseball in Natchitoches as well as with the Special Olympics, has been selected as one of the 100 Top Trial Lawyers determined by the American Trial Lawyers Association, and named to America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators.

Softball star Kenney was a three-year All-Southland Conference third baseman and designated player who ranks among the best hitters in Lady Demon history. She helped NSU win three straight Southland Conference championships in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Co-Hitter of the Year in the Southland in 1998 (.305, 4 HR, 33 RBI), she was All-Southland Tournament in 1997, 1999, 2000.



## Visit NATCHITOCHES

### Natchitoches Classic Car Show

October 4 – 5  
Front Street and Downtown Riverbank  
<https://natchitochescarshow.com/>

### 2019 American Cemetery Tour

October 11  
4-7 p.m.  
<https://www.natchitoches.com/event/2019-american-cemetery-tour>

### 2019 Tapped Tober Craft Beer & Wine Festival

October 12  
Noon – 10:30 p.m.  
Downtown Riverbank  
<https://www.nrmchospital.org/foundation/tappedtober/>

### 65th Annual Fall Tour of Homes

October 11-13  
<https://www.natchitoches.com/event/65th-annual-fall-tour-homes>

### Pumpkin Glow

October 29  
Downtown Riverbank

### Witch Way to Main Street

October 31  
Downtown Riverbank

### A Blush & Bashful Weekend

November 7-10  
<https://www.natchitoches.com/event/blush-bashful-weekend>

### NSU Rowing Regatta

November 9  
Downtown Riverbank

### 2019 Festival of Lights

November 23, 2019 – January 6, 2020  
November 23 – Turn on the Holidays  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
December 6 – 93rd Annual Christmas Festival  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
December 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21  
Christmas Tour of Homes  
5– 8 p.m.  
November 22-23, 29-30,  
December 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-25 - Christmas In The Park  
[www.natchitocheschristmas.com](http://www.natchitocheschristmas.com)



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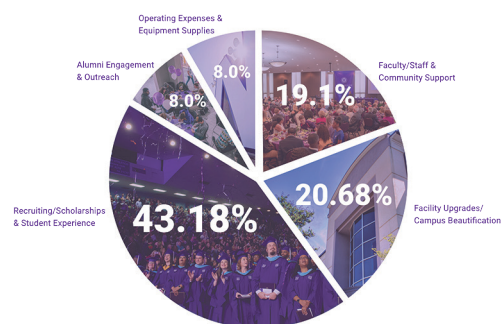
### The Columns Funds - Annual Giving

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You can use the enclosed envelope or go to [nsula.edu/columnsfund/](https://nsula.edu/columnsfund/) to donate today.

### Where Your Money Goes 2018-2019





# Guess Who

While most of Natchitoches anxiously awaited the release of the movie version of "Steel Magnolias" in November 1989, the local debut of Bobby Harling's play at NSU brought just as much excitement to town. Starring Kelly Graham as M'Lynn, Melissa Trumble as Truvy, Helen Farrar as Clairee, Patty Beckenridge as Shelby, Leah McGee as Ouise and Lola Davis as Annelle, the production ran Oct. 9-17, 1989.

"Steel Magnolias" was staged again in the 1999, pictured here, with each actress playing her role with conviction and style. Can you name them?

Answers to Summer 2019 Guess Who: The actors preparing for "Little Shop of Horrors" who were pictured in the Summer Guess Who photo are Dana Duhon and Eric DeFratis.

Answering Correctly:  
Jenny Meisinger (1999), Drayden, Maryland



# In Memory

- 1948 – Billy Brooks Hudson, July 26, 2019, Haughton
- 1953 – "Polly" Audrey Pauline Scott Lindsley Eversull, July 3, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1956 – Wayne Converse Dew, Aug. 3, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1957 – Richard Max Goodwin, May 24, 2019, Magnolia, Arkansas
- 1957, 1963 – Edith Sharp Lucky, July 27, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1959 – Carley Maxwell Jones, May 25, 2019, Haughton
- 1959 – Jimmie Jenkins King, July 18, 2019, Olla
- 1960 – Ted Jones, Aug. 11, 2019, Baton Rouge
- 1960 – Ronald J. Knott, June 26, 2019, Eules, Texas
- 1962 – Boyd "Roland" Booty, Aug. 16, 2018, Leesville
- 1963 – Billy St. Andre, May 3, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1964 – James Herring, Dec. 2, 2018, Coushatta
- 1967 – Benny O'Brien, July 4, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1969 – William A "Tank" Edwards, June 24, 2019, Purcellville, Virginia
- 1972 – Gloyd Lewain "Butch" Martin, Aug. 23, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1975 – Shirley Jewell Moore Giles, June 14, 2019, Shreveport
- 1975 – Barbara Tibbett Johnson, July 6, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1978 – Johnny Dennis Bruza, Feb. 16, 2019, Metairie
- 1982 – Lt. Colonel Richard Lee Rogers (Ret.), May 19, 2019, Heber Springs, Arkansas
- 1988 – Glennis Merle Howard Wise, June 29, 2019, Natchitoches
- 1990 – Charles Douglas "Chuck" July 10, 2019, Orzechoskie, Slidell,
- 1997 – Eugene Brisset, June 23, 2019, Haughton
- 2003 – Erik Michael Dunn, July 8, 2019, Louisville, Kentucky
- 2018 – Richard Walsh, June 30, 2019, Natchitoches
- Dr. Donald E. Ryan, March 15, 2019, Natchitoches
- Lily Waltman Chase, May 24, 2019, Baton Rouge
- Linda Jackson Vickers, May 24, 2019, Colonial Beach, Virginia
- Mary Elizabeth Goldsby Collins, May 27, 2019, Haughton
- Dennis "Chip" Rachal, July 29, 2019, Shreveport
- Adolph L. "Al" Wilson, Aug. 7, 2019, Alexandria
- Billy Ray "Goat" Milam, Aug. 27, 2019, Natchitoches

# Looking Back



Pictured on the front page of the Current Sauce on Oct. 5, 1939, were members of the Louisiana State Normal College Homecoming Court. The above-the-fold photo shared billing with front page stories regarding the dedication of the new football stadium during Homecoming festivities, which were expected to be the largest Homecoming in the history of the college. Invitations were sent to alumni, all high school football teams and all high school seniors throughout the state. Another article announced that ground had been broken on a new student center and natatorium in the heart of campus and that construction on the new Fine Arts Building was underway. Campus enrollment had soared that semester to 2,353 students, up 12.7 percent over the previous fall.





*Northwestern State University welcomed about 1,400 freshmen during the university's annual New Student Convocation where new students were introduced to deans and department heads, motivational speakers and many Demon traditions. Convocation marks the beginning of each student's academic journey, which concludes with graduation.*